

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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DIRECTION 90

Completion of the entry relating to the generic name *Argas* Latreille, 1795 (Class Arachnida, Order Acarina) made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion 73*

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN DIRECTION 90

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(16th December 1954)

DIRECTION 90

COMPLETION OF THE ENTRY RELATING TO THE
GENERIC NAME "ARGAS" LATREILLE, 1795 (CLASS
ARACHNIDA, ORDER ACARINA) MADE ON THE
"OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN
ZOOLOGY" BY THE RULING GIVEN IN
"OPINION" 73

RULING :—(1) It is hereby directed that in the entry relating to the generic name *Argas* Latreille, 1795 (Class Arachnida, Order Acarina) made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion 73* the words "by monotypy" be inserted after the words "type species" in the portion of the said entry containing the citation of the nominal species *Acarus reflexus* Fabricius (J.C.), 1794, as the type species of the foregoing genus.

(2) It is hereby ruled that the specific name *columbarum* Shaw, 1793, as published in the combination *Acarus columbarum*, be treated as being a *nomen nudum* and therefore as possessing no status in zoological nomenclature.

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1486 :—

reflexus Fabricius (J.C.), 1794, as published in the combination *Acarus reflexus* (specific name of type species of *Argas* Latreille, 1795).

(4) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 503 :—

columbarum Shaw, 1793, as published in the combination *Acarus columbarum* (a name ruled under (2) above to be a *nomen nudum*).

(5) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1136 :—

Argas Scouler, 1835 (a junior homonym of *Argas* Latreille, 1795).

I. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PRESENT “ DIRECTION ”

The present *Direction* forms part of the concluding group of *Directions* embodying decisions clarifying, completing or correcting entries made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936 taken by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in preparation for the publication of the foregoing *Official List* in book-form. The particular subject dealt with in this *Direction* is the entry relating to the generic name *Argas* Latreille, 1795 (Class Arachnida, Order Acarina) made on the *Official List* by the Ruling given in *Opinion 73* (1922, *Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 1) : 23—31).

The issues involved in the present case were placed before the Commission by the Secretary in the following paper on 3rd October 1957 :—

Proposed completion of the action relating to the generic name "Argas" Latreille, 1795 (Class Arachnida, Order Acarina) consequent upon the addition of that name to the "Official List of Generic Names in Zoology" by the Ruling given in "Opinion" 73

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature)

The purpose of the present note is to submit proposals for the completion of the action required in connection with the generic name *Argas* Latreille, 1795, (Class Arachnida, Order Acarina) consequent upon the entry of that name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in 1922 in *Opinion* 73. The problems involved are set out in the following paragraphs.

2. The nominal genus *Argas* Latreille, 1795, was established without any cited nominal species and, in order to determine what is the type species of this genus it is necessary to ascertain what was or were the nominal species placed in this genus by the first author to cite such species as belonging to this genus. Examination of the literature shows that the first such author was Latreille himself when in [1802—1803] (*Hist. nat. gén. partic. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 66) he so cited the single nominal species *Acarus reflexus* Fabricius (J.C.), 1794 (*Ent. syst.* 4 : 426). That species is, therefore, the type species of this genus by monotypy.

3. When in *Opinion* 72 the generic name *Argas* Latreille was placed on the *Official List*, the above nominal species was correctly stated to be the type species of the genus in question. No particulars, however, were given as to how under Article 30 of the *Règles* that species acquired that status. All that is now required to make good this deficiency is for the Commission to give a direction that the words "by monotypy" be inserted after the words "type species" in the portion of the entry on the *Official List* relating to the generic

name *Argas* Latreille, where it is stated that *Acarus reflexus* Fabricius (J.C.), 1794, is the type species of the genus so named.

4. The other matter which calls for attention in connection with this case arises in connection with the action to be taken by the Commission in compliance with the General Directive given to it by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, that, when it places a given generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, it is at the same time to place on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* the specific name of the type species of the genus so named if that is the oldest available name for the species concerned or, if that name is not the oldest such name, whatever name is considered by specialists to be the oldest available name for the species in question.

5. In the present case the name *Acarus reflexus* Fabricius, 1794, is an available name and for well over a century it was universally applied to the species concerned and still is so applied by the majority of workers in this group. In 1929, however, Oudemans in Part 2 of his *Kritisch Historisch Oversight der Acarologie* and again in 1936 in Part 3-B of the above work claimed that the above name was a junior subjective synonym of the name *Acarus columbarum* Shaw, 1793 (*Nat. Miscell.* 4 : text to pl. 108). It was to investigate the validity of this claim in conjunction with specialists in the group concerned that, when in June 1956 I submitted to the Commission a paper (bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1018,¹ containing proposals for the addition to the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* of the specific names of the type species of genera belonging to the Class Arachnida and to certain other Classes of Invertebrates, the names of which had been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936, I reported that I had reserved the present case for further examination.

6. In a case of this kind clearly the first thing to be done is to examine the publication in which appeared the older name which it had been claimed should be used in preference to the well-established name in current use. Reference to Volume 4 of Shaw's *Naturalist's Miscellany* shows that his observations in connection with the name *Acarus columbarum* are of the scantiest kind. Shaw mentioned this name twice in his explanation to plate 108 and, in order to enable the Commission to form its own judgment as to the value properly

¹ The document here referred to has since been published in *Direction 67* (1957, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 1(E) : 111—128), in which were embodied the decisions taken by the International Commission on the proposals then submitted to it for consideration.

to be attached to the above name the passages in question are quoted below :—

- (a) In the course of some introductory remarks regarding the genus *Acarus*, Shaw mentioned the name *Acarus columbarum* in the following sentence* :—

Some species however so far exceed the rest of the genus in size as to be sufficiently conspicuous even at a moderate distance, for example the *Acarus ricinus* or common tick, so frequently seen on dogs ; the *Acarus columbarum* not less plentiful on pigeons and some other animals ; and the *Acarus holosericeus* . . .

- (b) Somewhat later Shaw gave a description of *Acarus auratus* which concludes with the following remarks* :—

In the general form of the apparatus of the head, this species [i.e. *Acarus auratus*] bears a striking affinity to the pigeon tick, or *Acarus columbarum*, being furnished like that animal, with a serrated snout, the processes of which, lying on the under surface, and pointing backwards, enable it to adhere with great firmness to the skin of the creature it infests. The species to which it [i.e. *Acarus auratus*] bears the greatest resemblance is the *Acarus Iguanae* of Fabricius . . .

* Note : In the passages quoted above the scientific names cited by Shaw appeared in Roman type and not in italics. They are accordingly so reproduced here.

7. When I examined the above passages, I came to the conclusion that as so published the name *Acarus columbarum* must be regarded as being a *nomen nudum*, for (a) such characters as were cited for *Acarus columbarum* by Shaw were all stated to be shared equally with another species (*Acarus auratus*) and none was given as being exclusively diagnostic for *columbarum* and (b) the citation of the host species (the pigeon) which would have been of importance if it had been published in conjunction with particulars of other characters could not in the present case be accepted as providing the name *Acarus columbarum* Shaw with an "indication" for the purposes of Article 25 of the *Règles*, having regard to the decision by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, that the citation of a host species, unaccompanied by other particulars is not to be accepted as being an "indication" for the foregoing purposes (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 256).

8. At this point I decided that my next step should be to consult specialists in the group concerned for the purpose of ascertaining their views both as to the interpretation of Shaw's remarks about *Acarus columbarum* and as to the nature of the action which it was desirable that the Commission should be advised to take. The number of specialists actively working this particular field is not large but ultimately I obtained advice from two such specialists, one in the United Kingdom, the other in the United States. The first of these specialists was Dr. F. A. Turk (*Camborne, Cornwall, England*) the other, Dr. Glen M. Kohls (*U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, National Institute of Health, National Microbiological Institute, Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Hamilton, Montana, U.S.A.*).

9. Dr. Turk replied that, in his view, the name *Acarus columbarum* Shaw was a *nomen nudum*—thus confirming an opinion that he had himself published in 1954—that *Acarus reflexus* Fabricius was certainly the type species of *Argas* Latreille and that that name was the name in current use for the species in question.

10. When I consulted Dr. Kohls, I informed him of the advice that had been received from Dr. Turk and added that, if that view were to be adopted, the proper course would, in my opinion, be to advise the International Commission to reject the name *Acarus columbarum* Shaw as a *nomen nudum* and to place the name *reflexus* Fabricius, 1794, as published in the combination *Acarus reflexus*, as being the oldest available specific name for the type species of *Argas* Latreille on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*. In his reply (dated 24th September 1957) Dr. Kohls wrote as follows:—

In all probability Shaw's *Acarus columbarum* is the same as *reflexus* Fabricius but Dr. R. A. Cooley and I rejected *columbarum* as a *nomen nudum* in our monograph of the Argasidae of North America, Central America and Cuba (1944:14). In this work we accepted *reflexus* as the type species of *Argas* because in our opinion it was the oldest available name . . . I am pleased to see that Dr. Turk's opinion is in agreement with ours. In brief, I concur with Dr. Turk in this matter and I agree that the Commission should be advised to take the course of action outlined in your letter.

11. In view of the nature of the advice received from Dr. Turk and Dr. Kohls and of the opinion of Dr. Cooley as reported by the second of these specialists, I recommend that the Commission should now take action in the sense outlined at the beginning of the immediately preceding paragraph and at the same time should take such other action as is needed to complete the entry relating to the generic name *Argas* Latreille already made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* and to comply with the related Directives issued to it by the International Congresses of Zoology in regard to other *Official*

Lists and Official Indexes. Under the latter head it will be necessary to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* a junior homonym of *Argas* Latreille, 1795, namely *Argas* Scouler, 1835 (*Rec. gen. Sci.* 1 (2) : 137). It will also be necessary in due course to place on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* the family-group name based on the generic name *Argas* Latreille, 1795, but it is proposed to defer doing this until comprehensive proposals can be submitted in regard to the family-group-name problems arising in connection with all the names of Acarine genera placed on the *Official List* up to the end of 1936.

12. The recommendations which are, therefore, now submitted to the International Commission are that it should :—

(1) direct that in the entry on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* regarding the generic name *Argas* Latreille, 1795, made by the Ruling given in *Opinion 73* the words “by monotypy” be inserted after the words “type species” in the portion containing the citation of *Acarus reflexus* Fabricius (J.C.), 1794, as type species of the foregoing genus ;

(2) rule that the specific name *columbarum* Shaw, 1793, as published in the combination *Acarus columbarum*, is to be treated as being a *nomen nudum* and therefore as possessing no status in Zoological nomenclature ;

(3) place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

reflexus Fabricius (J.C.), 1794, as published in the combination *Acarus reflexus* (specific name of type species of *Argas* Latreille, 1795)

(4) place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

columbarum Shaw, 1793, as published in the combination *Acarus columbarum*, as rejected as a *nomen nudum* in (2) above.

(5) place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Argas Scouler, 1835 (a junior homonym of *Argas* Latreille, 1795).

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Mr. Hemming's paper the question of taking supplementary action regarding the entry relating to the generic name *Argas Latreille* made on the *Official List* by the Ruling given in *Opinion 73* was allotted the Registered No. Z.N.(S.) 1128.

II. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

3. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)20 : On 18th October 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(O.M.)(57)20) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the entry on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* regarding the generic name *Argas Latreille*, 1795, and matters associated therewith as set out in paragraph 12 of the paper bearing the Registered No. Z.N.(S.) 1128 [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in paragraph 1 of the present *Direction*] submitted by the Secretary simultaneously with the present Voting Paper".

4. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the One-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 18th November 1957.

5. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)20 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)20 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-four (24) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Mayr ; Bonnet ; Riley ; Stoll ; Vokes ; Bodenheimer ; Lemche ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Hering ; Hankó ; Prantl ; Dymond ; Esaki ; Tortonese ; do Amaral ; Boschma ; Hemming ; Mertens ; Cabrera ; Miller ; Kühnelt ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Jaczewski ;

(b) *Negative Votes* :

None ;

(c) *On Leave of Absence, one (1)* :

Key ;

(d) *Voting Papers not returned* :

None.

6. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 19th November 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)20, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 5 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

7. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Direction " : On 6th December 1957, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)20.

8. Original References : The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Direction* :—

Argas Scouler, 1835, *Rec. gen. Sci.* **1**(2) : 137

columbarum, *Acarus*, Shaw, 1793, *Nat. Miscell.* **4** : text to pl. 108

reflexus, *Acarus*, Fabricius (J.C.), 1794, *Ent. syst.* **4** : 426

9. Family-Group-Name Aspects: The family-group-name aspect of the present case has been deferred, pending its examination in connection with the preparation for the consideration of the Commission of comprehensive proposals regarding the family-group-name problems involved in connection with the entries relating to the names of other genera of the Class Arachnida made on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936.

10. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Direction* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

11. The present *Direction* shall be known as *Direction* Ninety (90) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Sixth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Seven.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING